REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate status identifier for each claim.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2-13, 15-22, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40, 43-49, and 60-69 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In section 3 of the Office Action, claims 24-26, 28, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Hosain (U.S. Patent No. 7,092,696). These claims were cancelled without prejudice in the Amendment and Reply dated February 3, 2006. The Office Action appears to apply Hosain against claims 2-13, 15-22, 29, 30, 32-40, 43-49 and 60-69. Therefore, these latter claims will be distinguished from Hosain below.

On pages 2-3, the Office Action states that Hosain discloses "a portable device configured as a repeater" and "means for receiving a data signal wirelessly; means for forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node." The Office Action points to col. 3 line 42 through col. 8 line 67 and Figs. 2 and 3.

Hosain discloses defining an accounting framework for charging services used on a packet-based network. By providing an accounting unit having a predetermined format, Hosain attempts to allow accounting information collected by one service provider to be communicated to another service provider without complicated translations or conversions of accounting formats that may differ between service providers. Hosain, col. 2 lines 57-67.

Claims 7, 29, 33, 43, 65 have been amended to further clarify the patentable embodiments defined therein. Claim 7, for example, recites "receiving a data signal <u>wirelessly</u> at the network access node" and "forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node." Thus, at least two wireless links are made to the network access node: one for receiving a data signal and one for forwarding the data signal to a network user node. This configuration is illustrated in exemplary form in Fig. 1 of the present application at elements 22 (or 24), 20 and 18.

As shown in Fig. 1 of <u>Hosain</u>, mobile node 33 is shown in wireless communication with service provider 36. Other mobile nodes 20 and 35 are also shown in wireless communication with service providers 38 and 20, respectively. However, none of mobile nodes 20, 33, or 35 both receives a data signal wirelessly at a network access node and forwards the data signal wirelessly to a network user node, as recited in Claim 7 of the present application.

The method of Claim 7 of the present application advantageously allows a network access node to forward a data signal wirelessly to a network user node (e.g., from one mobile device to another in one exemplary embodiment) and to provide credits to an account associated with the network access node and an account associated with an Internet service provider. <u>Hosein</u> teaches an accounting unit having a predetermined format, but fails to teach a network access node wirelessly forwarding a data signal to a network user node and receiving a credit in an associated account.

Similar limitations appear in each of the other independent claims to distinguish <u>Hosein</u> in a similar manner. For example, Claim 17 recites a portable device "configured as a repeater" and comprising "means for receiving a data signal wirelessly" and "means for forwarding the data signal wirelessly to a network user node." <u>Hosein</u> fails to teach this configuration.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Dependent claims 3, 15 and 61 further recite the use of an ad hoc network. Hosein fails to teach or suggest an ad hoc network among multiple mobile devices. Accordingly, these claims are further patentable over Hosein for this additional reason.

Dependent claims 12, 13, 21, 30, 33-34, 36-40, 43-49, and 68-69 recite the use of a wireless local area network (WLAN) protocol. While Hosein teaches a cellular network, it fails to teach the use of a WLAN protocol. Accordingly, these claims are further patentable over Hosein for this additional reason.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.
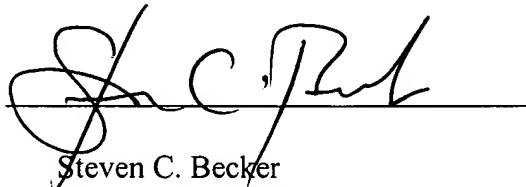
If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date   2-22-07   By

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